



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS

Month: December 2014

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER, 2015

Overall, the month of December was mild for Virginia. Most locations received over 3 inches of rain during the month, but the majority of rainfall was in the later part of the month. Due to December being mild, livestock producers were able to get more feed from pastures than initially thought; however, mud has made pasturing livestock difficult. Except in a few places, soybean growers were able to complete the soybean harvest by the end of December. For some livestock producers, corn was intentionally not harvested; the unharvested corn will be fed directly to livestock. Other farming activities for the month included taking soil samples, repairing and cleaning up equipment, preparing taxes, purchasing supplies for 2015, and attending workshops.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat	0	1	22	72	5
Oats	1	3	23	70	3
Barley	1	1	28	68	2
Pasture	4	22	28	42	4
Livestock	1	5	22	58	4

FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES		
Crop	This Month	Last Year
% of Feed Obtained from Pastures	45	n/a

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service**



Virginia Tech

Virginia Cooperative Extension
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

City	Temperature						Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Last Week	Since Dec 1	Dec. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	46	32	58	23	39	5	0.56	3.28	-0.06	0.15	0.03
Norfolk	52	37	65	25	45	6	0.56	3.77	0.61	0.07	-0.05
Richmond	51	35	64	23	43	7	0.56	3.23	-0.03	0.09	-0.04
Roanoke	46	34	58	26	40	5	0.51	2.71	-0.26	0.19	0.09
Wash/Dulles	43	26	57	18	34	1	0.61	3.82	0.64	0.56	0.45

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 4, 2015

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FAIRFAX (Adria Bordas)

It was a mild December, but getting ready for a cold week.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

December weather conditions in Rockbridge were at the long-term average for temperature, but below long-term average for precipitation. The total precipitation in December measured at Lexington's sewage treatment plant was 2.7 compared to a long-term average of 3.1. Hay is being fed to most livestock with a few farms still utilizing stockpiled grazing. Virtually all harvesting is done with a comparatively few acres of corn still standing that will have the whole ears harvested for livestock feed this winter, a usual practice for our region.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan Poore)

The weather was favorable for the fall harvest as most farmers were able to get their crops harvested timely. There were a few that got caught with those days of cloudy and few tenths of rain. As far as rainfall - not so much until the last 7 days of Dec. During the earlier of the month only a few showers and 48 hours of cloudy conditions. The last week - a good soaking of 1 to 1.5 inches of rain fell. Temperatures have been up and down, but no records either way.

GOOCHLAND (Rachel Grosse)

There has been significant rain in last week.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

The month of December was overall quite mild. We have had some rain which helped ease the dry conditions of the autumn. Small grain and cover crops look pretty good this year. Those who have practiced controlled grazing are still on grass, those who have not are feeding hay.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Small grains look good for the most part. Activities for December included taking soil samples, making purchases for 2015, equipment clean up, tax preparation, and attending pesticide applicator recertification workshops.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Mild weather conditions overall have allowed pasturing of livestock with minimal feeding. Mud continues to be problematic in the area.

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Wet weather and mild temperatures have made mud an issue for livestock producers. Muddy conditions have not added to animal health issues thus far but are chipping away at feed efficiency.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Franklin county over the last month has off and on rain needing more or snow coverage for a good spring. Temperatures have been all over the place.

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

Pastures are wearing thin in more places. Most of the soybeans made it in before Christmas, although there are a few still standing in the fields. We have had several heavy rain days which made finishing up harvest difficult here and are kicking off the winter hay feeding season with the usual muddy mess. Animals are still looking good. Have not had much real winter weather as of yet, but temperatures are supposed to drop this week. The wheat is looking fair considering a lot of it was late going in because of soybean harvest. January ought to give us a good feel for how hay and stockpile supplies will hold up. Happy New Year!

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

This past month has been cool, warm, wet, and windy. Soybeans were finished and small grains were planted and monitored.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

December had more widespread precipitation than usual. We still have some soybeans in the field. 95% of the cotton is in and all of the corn and peanuts with very good yields. Looking forward to a productive 2015.

SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)

Rainfall totals continue to go up for the winter months for the next crops to be planted. Wheat crop looks fair to good in most areas. Growers are busy trying to decide what to plant and profit for another year.